

a¹³ 4. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 1 wherein (a) is an acrylate or methacrylate ester which contains from about one to about 24 carbon atoms in the ester group.

a¹⁴ 8. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 1 wherein (c) comprises one or more acids selected from ^{group of} acrylic acids, methacrylic acids, fumaric acid, maleic acid or anhydride, allyl acid and mixtures of two or more thereof.

9. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 1 wherein (c) is present in an amount from about 2% to about 12%.

a¹⁵ 11. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 10 wherein (d) the cross linkable monomer is selected from ^{group} one or more glycidyl allyl esters, one or more epoxy acrylate esters or one or more methacrylate esters.

a¹⁶ 13. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 1 further comprising (e) at least one alkyl acrylate or at least one methacrylate ester, wherein the at least one alkyl acrylate or the at least one methacrylate ester contain less than 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

14. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 13 wherein (e) comprises one or more acrylates selected from ^{group} methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, and ethyl methacrylate.

a¹⁷ 16. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 15 wherein (f) the co-polymerizable monomer comprises one or more co-polymerizable monomers selected from polystyryl ethyl methacrylate, acetoacetoxyl ethyl methacrylate, alpha olefins, and vinyl esters of alkanolic acids containing more than three carbon atoms.

a¹⁸ 18. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 17 wherein the plasticizer is selected from an adipate, a phosphate, a benzoate, a phthalate ester, a polyalkylene oxide, a sulfonamide, and mixtures of two or more thereof.

a¹⁹ 22. (Amended) A pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a blend of: (1) the pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 1 and (2) a second pressure sensitive adhesive comprising: (a) a major amount of at least one acrylate or methacrylate ester; (b) from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of at least one nitrogen containing monomer; (c) from about 0.5% to about 15% by weight of an unsaturated carboxylic acid; and (d) at least one cross linkable monomer.

a²⁰ 25. (Amended) A pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a blend of: (1) a pressure sensitive adhesive comprising: (a) a major amount of at least one acrylate or methacrylate ester; (b) from about 8% to about 30% by weight of at least one nitrogen containing monomer; and (c) at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid, and (2) a second pressure sensitive adhesive comprising: (a) a major amount of at least one acrylate or methacrylate ester; (b) from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of at least one nitrogen containing monomer; (c) at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid; and (d) at least one crosslinkable monomer.

A²¹

30. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (c) of (1) and (2) each comprise at least one acid independently selected from acrylic acids, methacrylic acids, fumaric acid, maleic acid or anhydride, allyl acid, and mixtures of two or more thereof.

A²²

33. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 32 wherein (d) is at least one glycidyl monomer.

A²³

36. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (2) further comprises (e) at least one alkyl acrylate and methacrylate ester containing less than 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group.

37. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (d) is at least one glycidyl monomer.

38. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (d) the at least one crosslinkable monomer is selected from epoxy acrylates or methacrylate esters, and glycidyl allyl esters.

39. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (d) is present in an amount from about 0.05% to 2%.

A²⁴

41. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 40 wherein (e) the at least one alkyl acrylate is methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate or ethyl methacrylate.

a²⁴ 42. (Amended) The adhesive of claim 41 wherein (f) comprises one or more co-polymerizable monomers selected from polystyryl ethyl methacrylate, acetoacetoxy ethyl methacrylate, alpha olefins, and vinyl esters of alkanolic acids containing more than three carbon atoms.

✓ Please cancel claims 47 to 57, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

X 58. (Added) The adhesive of claim 1 wherein (b) is present in an amount from about 12% to about 30%.

a²⁵ X 59. (Added) The adhesive of claim 22 wherein (1)(b) is present in an amount from about 12% to about 30%.

X 60. (Added) The adhesive of claim 25 wherein (1)(b) is present in an amount from about 12% to about 30%.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 46 and 58 to 60 are pending in the application upon entry of the above amendments. Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 25, 30, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41 and 42 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification as filed. Claims 47 to 57, which have been withdrawn from consideration, have been cancelled. Claims 58 to 60 have been added. Support for newly added claims 58 to 60 can be found on page 6, line 19 to page 7, line 2. Favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.